



## Headquarters jail closes after 77 years

**F**or the first time since 1938, the jail atop Police Headquarters at 1125 Locust St. is closed.

All inmates were transferred to the remodeled Jackson County Regional Detention Center on April 30. Police officers now book arrests at the Shoal Creek, Metro and South patrol division stations. It's something that has been in the works for years. Chief Darryl Forté said he has been pushing for the consolidation since 2006.

"My biggest concern was improving the conditions for the detainees," Chief Forté said.

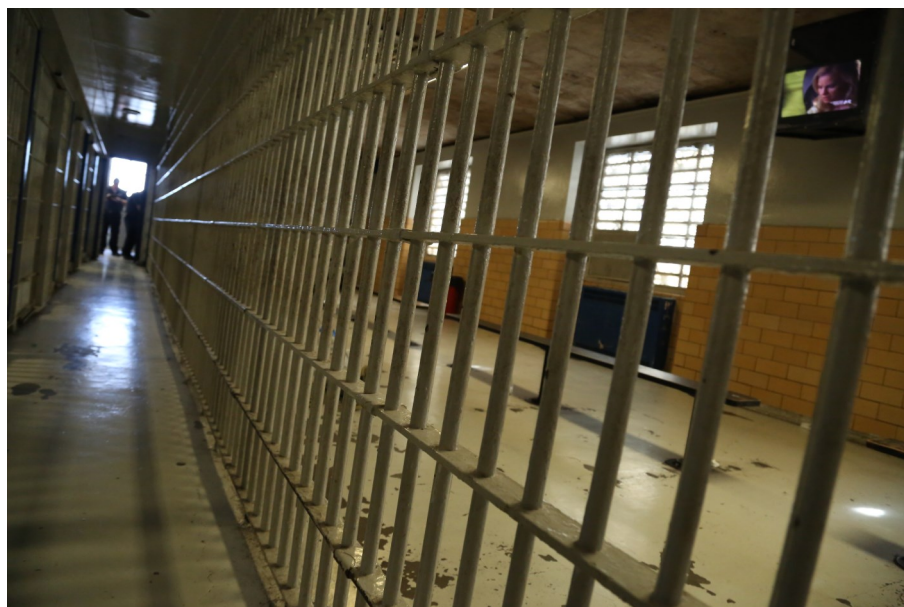
KCPD's jail has been nearly the same since it was built in 1938, Major Eric Winebrenner said. It has received no significant upgrades, and space was very tight. Because it was never upgraded, it never was required to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). But that mandate was looming, and the upgrades would have cost at least \$5 million.

Captain Mike Hicks was assigned to the Detention Unit in January 2014 with explicit direction to get KCPD out of the jail business. He had a lot of work to do.

"It's unbelievable how that Detention Unit is part of the culture of this police department," Captain Hicks said. "It touches at least 20 different policies."

Hicks and his staff worked with everyone from patrol division personnel to information technology staff, as well as County and City staff, to make the transition happen. The Jackson County Detention Center at 1300 Cherry, just one block south of Headquarters, was built in 1984. A large area on the Detention Center's ground floor was designated for KCPD detainees awaiting arraignment. But Captain Hicks said KCPD never moved in for some reason, and the area just ended up being used for storage.

That area now has undergone renovation to make 100 beds for inmates, as well as open areas, isolation cells and more. It also will offer several things not available to detainees at 1125 Locust, including on-site medical care, mental health screening for every inmate, showers and more than just turkey baloney sandwiches



and bear claws for food.

No Detention Unit member lost a job in the transition. Detention facility officers were transferred to staff the detention areas at patrol division stations. Supervisors are working at the new regional detention center as population control managers. They are KCPD's liaison to the Jackson County Detention Center and track the populations at Shoal Creek, Metro and South patrol divisions as well as the City and State areas at the new regional jail.

"They're kind of like traffic cops," Captain Hicks

said, overseeing who goes where and when.

Arrests brought to division station detention areas are held for no more than six hours. If they have not bonded out, they are transferred to the Jackson County Detention Center.

Captain Hicks said the switch will make jobs easier for people like the Fugitive Apprehension and Arraignment Unit and patrol officers. But he acknowledged it will be more difficult for investigators to take suspects back and forth from the Detention Center to Headquarters instead of just bringing suspects down from upstairs. The Detention Center does have an interrogation room, but Captain Hicks said he understands many detectives will want to question suspects in the newly renovated rooms in Headquarters.

It's something other police departments around the country are quite used to, however.

"We're one of very few cities to still have our detention unit run by the police department," Captain Hicks said. "We were a dinosaur."

No money is available to renovate the eighth floor of Headquarters at this time, Captain Hicks said. It will remain empty. Systems will be removed so the space will be rendered inoperable as a jail.

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# Program seeks to “save warriors”

Officer Adam Baker was unprepared for what would happen after he was in a fatal officer-involved shooting.

With all his Marine and KCPD training, he thought everything would be fine. But then came the night terrors. Then no sleep for four days at a time, and anxiety that rendered him unable to leave his house except for appointments with the Department psychologist. One medication after another. A wife who was terrified and didn't know what to do to help him.

“It made me really feel like I'm broken, and I can't get fixed,” Officer Baker said.

Then one of the Department's psychologists, Kay White, suggested Baker try the Save a Warrior program. After launching in Malibu, Calif., it came to Kansas City last fall. It is “an innovative, evidence-based program that provides a powerful healing experience for active-duty military, veterans and first responders who are suffering from post-traumatic stress,” according to the organization's web site. The site states 22 “warriors” commit suicide every day in the United States.

Adam Magers, the project director of Kansas City's Save a Warrior

program, attended the one in Malibu and thought it was so powerful and life-changing that he wanted to make Kansas City the organization's second location. The first K.C. cohort, or 5-day course, took place in fall 2014.

Magers said Save a Warrior's founder, Jake Clark, was a military veteran but also had served in the FBI, U.S. Secret Service and at the L.A. Police Department.

“He had just as much drama from law enforcement as he did from his time in the military, and it took him 13 years to overcome it,” Magers said. “... If there's anyone who needs this program, it's police officers.”

Los Angeles Police officers have found great success in the program, so when it started here, Magers wanted to see if Kansas City Police would be interested. An architect working on the Headquarters renovation project, Dale Duncan, runs the Spencer Duncan Make it Count Foundation in honor of his son, who died when his helicopter was shot down in Afghanistan. The Foundation supports organizations that help veterans, including Save a Warrior. He introduced Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Commander Captain Darren Ivey to the program. Then he, Ivey and Magers sat down with Chief Darryl Forté, who agreed it would be an excellent opportunity for officers experiencing post-traumatic

stress. The Spencer Duncan Foundation and Kansas City Royals Charities have so far paid for KCPD members to attend. It costs about \$2,500 per participant for the cohort.

Officer Baker said it's not just for people like him who are involved in critical incidents. It's also for officers who experience hardship day after day and never get to decompress.

“After you have to see an abused or dead baby during the day, how are you supposed to act when you go home to your own kids at night?” he asked. “You have to push that stuff down. It builds up.”

Captain Ivey presented about Save a Warrior at a commanders' meeting in April. He told the commanders to let him know if they knew of anyone who could benefit from the program.

“I was still presenting, and my phone started blowing up with e-mails,” Captain Ivey said. “They said stuff like, ‘This person would be perfect,’ and ‘I'd like to volunteer.’”

He said he was surprised by the outpouring from his fellow officers because many view police as macho, stodgy and unconcerned about emotional well-being.

“It seems we've evolved,” he said. “Overall wellness is really becoming part of our culture now.”

Officer Baker was part of the first group of three KCPD officers to go through Save a Warrior. Another three graduated as part of the 13-person cohort on May 8. Baker said the program focuses on how warriors throughout history have been able to overcome trauma, and it offers things like meditation and peer support as tools to do so. The majority of people who come to Save a Warrior are suicidal, according to the organization's web site. Baker said he hadn't reached that point yet, but he was in enough pain to know he needed something quickly.

“It literally is like looking in a mirror when you go there,” he said. “You really understand that all of us are going through the exact same problems.”

Officer Baker said that thanks to the program, he is healing and has regained his sense of self-worth. He went back as a “shepherd” with the May cohort, to serve as support and share his experiences.

For more information or to donate to the program, go to [saveawarrior.org](http://saveawarrior.org). If department members or someone they know would like to participate, contact Captain Darren Ivey.



**Participants in the Save a Warrior program, including several KCPD members, went through “The Labyrinth” exercise at the conclusion of their course May 8. Save a Warrior is an intensive program to provide healing for members of the military and law enforcement suffering from post-traumatic stress.**



## Officer is 1st to earn prestigious helicopter pilot rating



Officer Dan Meyer (and some Royals pride last fall).

**M**aster Patrol Officer Dan Meyer has become the first pilot in the history of the Kansas City Missouri Police Department's Helicopter Section to earn his Certified Flight Instructor Instrument (CFII) rating, according to the Section's records. This process consisted of passing a written, oral and a flight exam with a Federal Aviation Administration-designated pilot examiner. On April 23, MPO Meyer took a check ride with the examiner. By passing this CFII check ride, MPO Meyer now can teach other helicopter pilots who want to earn their instrument rating. An instrument rating allows pilots to fly by reference to instruments only, with no visible horizon or outside references – flying in clouds, for example.

## Largest class ever graduates from Citizens Police Academy

**M**ore people than ever before want to learn about Kansas City Missouri Police. The largest-ever Citizens Police Academy class graduated May 5. A total of 64 participants spent three hours a week for 12 weeks learning about all facets of the KCPD. Another 50 residents already are signed up for the fall session. Previously, the largest classes had about 40 people. Organizers attribute the uptick to promoting the course on the neighborhood-based social media site, Nextdoor (many participants said that's where they heard about it), as well as a national trend of interest in police practices.



## Hot Spots build rapport



Sergeant Greg Satter was working his assigned Hot Spot in East Patrol Division on April 12 when he met and chatted with a young man who was new to the area. They decided to play catch and got caught on camera!

## Buyout prompts departures

The Department will lose nearly 880 years of experience this month as a result of buyouts to balance the budget.

Any employee with more than 15 years of service was offered \$20,000 to retire or resign from the department by the end of May. Twenty-five sworn and nine non-sworn members took the buy-out. This is 10 more than the last time the department offered a buy-out in May 2010. Just 24 people took that offer, which also was for \$20,000. At that time, however, department members had to have at least 25 years of service to get the buyout incentive. As far as anyone could recall, 2010 was the first time the department offered a buyout.

This time, 34 tenured KCPD staff members now are off the books, thanks to the buyout. They ranged from 15 to 40 years of service, with an average of 25.8 years.

## Upcoming Events

June 15-19  
**Battle for Blood**

June 16  
**Board of Police  
Commissioners Meeting**

**The mission of the  
Kansas City Missouri  
Police Department  
is to protect and serve  
with professionalism,  
honor and integrity.**

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## Officially Speaking

### Awards

#### ***Special Unit Citation***

#### **Violent Crimes Enforcement Unit**

#### **Violent Crimes Administrative Squad**

Captain Daniel Graves  
Captain Todd Paulson  
Captain Mike Wood  
Sergeant Clifford Balicki  
Sergeant Bryan Jones  
Sergeant DJ Merrill  
Sergeant Eric Roeder  
Sergeant Timothy Smith  
Sergeant Jeffrey Weiler  
Detective John Mattivi  
Detective Frank Rorabaugh  
Detective Troy Schwalm  
Detective Michael Wells, Jr.  
Officer Brandon Bray  
Officer Bryan Britten  
Officer Aaron Bryant  
Officer Pedro Caraballo  
Officer Nicholas Cardona  
Officer Gregory Caudle  
Officer Shane Gaddis  
Officer Cole Massey  
Officer Christopher Onik  
Officer Chad Pfaff  
Officer Tyrone Phillips  
Officer Drew Pittenger  
Officer Bradley Rains  
Officer Aaron Riley  
Officer George Sterling  
Officer Noah Stigall

Officer Zachary True  
Officer Anthony Watt

#### **Violent Crimes Intelligence Squad**

Sergeant Joseph Mabin  
Detective Robert Guffey  
Detective Herbert Robinson  
Detective Troy Schwalm  
Detective Jonah Staerkel  
Detective Zachary Storms  
Detective Brian Tomanio

#### ***Life-Saving Award***

Officer Walter Loving III  
Officer Aaron Smith

#### ***Meritorious Service Award***

Detective John Mattivi  
Detective Frank Rorabaugh  
Detective Michael Wells, Jr.  
Inventory Specialist  
Daleisha Gipson  
Inventory Specialist  
Robin Wright

#### ***Certificate of Commendation***

Sergeant Christopher Lantz  
Detective Robert Jorgenson  
Detective Nathan Kinate  
Detective Stacey Taylor  
Officer Charles Evans  
Officer William Nauyok

#### ***Purple Heart***

Officer Chad Fenwick  
Officer LeGrande McGregor

#### ***Distinguished Service Medal***

Sergeant Caleb Lenz  
Master Detective Michael  
Bailey  
Officer Marcus Smith

#### ***Medal of Valor***

Officer LeGrande McGregor

#### **25-Year Rings**

Major Sharon Laningham  
Major Richard Lockhart  
Captain Bradley Deichler  
Sergeant Kevin Kilkenny  
Sergeant Steven Sandusky  
Officer David Denney  
Officer Tamara Jones  
Officer Steven Kendall  
Officer Shawnie Nix  
Fleet Operations Technician  
James Caldwell

#### **Retirement**

Supervisor Carl Carlson II